

Superintendent Report
November 15, 2016



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE



Tucson Unified School District

We recognize the Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our Nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our Nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security.

Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- We will provide our managers and supervisors with the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills Service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to employ Guardsmen, Reservists, transitioning Service members and Veterans.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's Service members and their families in peace, in crisis, and in war.

Tucson Unified School District
Employer

Paul E. Mock
Paul E. Mock
National Chair, ESGR

Ash Carter
Ash Carter
Secretary of Defense

November 9, 2014
Date



I would like to congratulate **Grijalva Elementary School** for its recognition by the PBIS-AZ council and for its outstanding support of positive school culture and climate.

Grijalva has two Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Teams. Grijalva's Tier 1 team uses data to develop interventions school-wide. The Tier 2-3 Team develops interventions for groups and individual students needing extra support to be successful in school.

This year, Grijalva's Tier 1 team worked in partnership with our communications department to create a video that highlights positive approaches to managing unexpected behaviors in the classroom.

They submitted the video to the PBIS-AZ Council's film festival, and it was chosen for recognition, earning high marks for both content and production value.

Let's take a look at the [video](#).

Can I ask the Grijalva team to come on up!

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Three of our students have been recognized by the Arizona Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition Services. These students are English Language Learners and were selected from many students across the state for the *Arizona ELL Student Success Story* 2016 OELAS Conference. Only four winners were chosen, and we have one of them. We also have two honorable mentions.

The winner is **Yousif Beeso**. He goes to Palo Verde High School, and his teacher is Christina Negrete.

Our honorable mentions are **Maria Fausti** from Hughes Elementary. Her teacher is Nanette Murray. And we have **Lanyero (Golda) Oloya**- from Mission View Elementary. Her teacher is Elizabeth Hoover.

I would like to congratulate these students for their success, their courage and their perseverance. We are so proud to have such remarkable students at Tucson Unified.

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Next, I'd like to tell you about **Walker Kroubalkian**, an amazing mathematician who is here with us tonight. He's a University High School student who was among 124,931 students to take the AP Calculus BC exam in 2016.

He did great. How great? He is one of 11 people in the world—the world!—to earn a perfect score on the exam.

And he did it in his freshman year. That is pretty incredible. Before we call Walker up, I want to let you know this isn't his first time to be in front of a Tucson Unified Governing Board.

Can we roll the **video**, please?

(after video)

Come on up, Walker. You sure have grown up quite a bit! Congratulations on your latest accomplishment!

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Next we would like to honor our September Attendance Awareness Campaign winners. These are based on a percentage increase in attendance comparing September 2015 to September 2016. Using percentages levels the playing field and gives every school the opportunity to win.

The winners are:

Cholla High School: 95.52 percent attendance for September 2016, an increase of 8.64 percent over September 2015.

Secrist Middle School: 92.44 percent attendance for September 2016, an increase of 4.02 percent over September 2015.

McCorkle K-8: 97.67 percent attendance for September 2016, an increase of 3.56 percent over September 2015.

Myers-Ganoung Elementary: 97.20 percent attendance for September 2016, an increase of 4.92 percent over September 2015.

Also we had a contest for kindergarten classes. The winning Kinder was McCorkle with 99.30 percent attendance for September 2016. This was an 8.66 percent increase over September 2015! The Kinder contest theme was "Hooked on School" and followed an ocean/fish motif, and the children got to explore a Touch Tank that contained sea creatures such as starfish, snails, shrimp and special guest star NEMO.

I would like to thank our teachers, staff, parents and children for working hard to make sure children attend school so they are engaged and learning every day.

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The first season of middle and K-8 school sports has concluded, and we have some district champs. The **C.E. Rose K-8** girls volleyball team has won the championship for the second year in a row. The team had an outstanding record of 12-0! Many of the girls on the team have received high academic honors due to their grades, character and leadership among their peers.

Come on up **C.E. Rose!**

On that same note, the **Pistor Middle School** boys basketball team has won the district championship as well. Great job, Pistor athletes!

Come on up, **Pistor!**

Congrats to both schools on a terrific season and for taking the title!

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I would next like to call up **Brendan Gary**, a Sahuaro High School student athlete who was recently named a School Winner in Wendy's learning and leading on and off the field. To qualify, students must play a sport, maintain a 3.0 GPA and complete an application process.

Brendan plays volleyball and basketball at Sahuaro and was recognized for his dedication and never cutting corners.

Here is what Principal Bobby Estrella said about the award: "There are students known by their teachers and friends for their commitment to excellence. We are excited and honored that a program like Wendy's High School Heisman is recognizing Brendan's hard work."

Congratulations, Brendan. It is always an honor to see hard work athletically and academically rewarded. Great job!

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I'm pleased to share with you that **Shaun Brown**, a Planning Technician with Tucson Unified's Planning Services department has been honored by his alma mater, Central Arizona College.

Mr. Brown received an Alumni Achievement Award and has been added to the school's Wall of Success.

The Alumni Achievement Award was created to honor the success of the school's students, and the wall of success is their way of celebrating personal and professional accomplishments.

Congratulations, Mr. Brown. You are a fine representative of Central Arizona College and Tucson Unified School District.

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Next I would like to share a story about calm under pressure, quick reaction and a potentially life-saving act.

Earlier this month, Mrs. **Jenny Santamaria**, an Ex. Ed. Teaching Assistant at Maxwell K-8 School, was monitoring her students during lunch. She noticed that a student who was talking had suddenly struggled to speak. When she asked if he was OK, and he did not respond, she realized he was choking. She patted his back to see if that would help dislodge whatever was in his throat. He continued struggling and started to turn red. Mrs. Santamaria immediately reacted and wrapped her arms around him to perform the Heimlich maneuver. After the second thrust, the food was dislodged and the student was able to breathe fine.

On behalf of the district and Morgan Maxwell K-8, I would like to acknowledge and commend Mrs. Santamaria's quick and calm response to this situation.

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Our next honorees are young artists. We have seventh-graders **Destiny Romero** and **Joana Pena** and sixth-grader **Jeremiah Booty** from Mary Belle McCorkle. Their artwork has been selected to be included in the 2017 City of Tucson Ward 5 Safety Calendar.

In addition to being featured in the calendar, each student received a City of Tucson Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition along with a City of Tucson Medallion of Hope.

Thank you, City of Tucson, for recognizing the fine work of our students! Can we have our artists come up for a photo?

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Each year, Tucson Unified puts on a huge event called College Night. Typically more than 200 colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions participate and 3,000 to 4,000 people attend.

You would think it would take an army to coordinate an event of this magnitude, and you're right. It does take an army. An army of one.

Her name is **Beth Counts**, and she works in the Counseling Department. I'm sure she is thinking "I'm not an army of one. I have help!" But according to Counseling Coordinator Tammy Hille, Ms. Counts is truly the backbone of this event.

Planning for College Night starts pretty much right after the previous one is finished. Ms. Counts starts coordinating with other organizations toward the end of November to set the date for the next year. After that, there are a number of tasks that need to be implemented until the actual date of the event. Ms. Counts meets with the Convention Center to plan the format of the event and is in frequent contact with the Event Planner. She is in constant communication with colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions on who will be attending College Night.

She keeps financial records up to date and works with the district's finance office on the budget, and she is in communication with Tucson Unified High Schools about their role. She coordinates publicity for the event, which is open to everyone and draws families from districts in and around Tucson and from towns such as Douglas and Rio Rico.

Can I ask Ms. Counts to come on up? On behalf of the district and the thousands of students who get a chance to see so many options and opportunities for their futures, I thank you for all of your hard work.

END OF REPORT